

Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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DRAFT MEETING NOTES

October 25, 2012

Members Present: Vikki Bauer, Mono Supervisors; Bernadette Lovato, BLM; Jon Regelbrugge, Susan Joyce & Deborah Lyons, USFS/Inyo; Gayle Rosander, Caltrans; Doug Power, James Kirkland, J.J. Carroll, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center; Carl Benz, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/Ventura; Deanna Dulen; Devils Postpile National Monument; Mike Crawley, Eric Dillingham, USFS/Humboldt-Toiyabe; Gayle Rosander & Dennee Alcalá, Caltrans

Members Absent: Chris Plakos, LADWP; Bruce Kinney, CDFG; Ron Johnny, Bridgeport Indian Colony; Adora Saulque, Benton Paiutes; John Eastman, Town of Mammoth Lakes; Donna Sisson, Yosemite National Park

Staff Present: Scott Burns, Wendy Sugimura, Heather deBethizy

Guests Present: Danna Stroud, SNC; Mark Drew, CalTrout/Inyo Mono IRWMP; Sandy Hogan, LTC/YARTS AAC/TOML Mobility Commission; Wendi Grasseschi, Mammoth Times

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS: Chair Vikki Bauer called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m., Colonel Carroll led the pledge of allegiance, and attendees introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3. MEETING NOTES:

MOTION: Approve meeting notes from July 26, 2012 (*Bauer/Lovato. Ayes: All.*)

4. INTRODUCTION OF COLONEL CARROLL: Doug Power, MWTC, introduced Col. Carroll reviewed the MCMWTC's history and presence in the Eastern Sierra, and discussed the future of the base. He predicted demand will increase in the near future as the focus shifts to security in the Pacific. Col. Carroll thanked the agencies and communities for their support of the base. Sergeant Major Kirkland introduced himself, noted the base provides 7.5% of employment in MC, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to interact with community.

5. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE: Agency representatives discussed planning issues and pending projects.

--- BREAK ---

6. INYO-MONO INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (IRWMP) STATUS UPDATE: Mark Drew, IRWMP staff, provided an overview of the IRWMP purpose, program, funding, history and committee structure. The effort has generated about \$2.4 million in grant funding for planning and implementation programs. A second version of the IRWM Plan has been completed and is available on the website. Some of the funded programs were mentioned, including funding for economically disadvantaged communities. Gayle Rosander asked if Cerro Coso college is involved, noting there are signs posted advising people not to drink the water. Drew noted Cerro Coso is not involved, and to please let him know of any other stakeholders that should be engaged. LADWP is not a signatory to the MOU but is intermittently involved, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is advisory, and the City of Bishop chose not to sign. Carl Benz noted the group's mission to protect and enhance the environment, and Drew responded that potable water has been the highest priority

and the focus is now starting to shift more toward environmental protection. Drew noted the restoration of the Walker River What project protect and enhance environment? Potable water is highest priority, but expanding to conservation projects like Walker River restoration project in Antelope Valley. The group is now ranking new projects, and at least two are conservation projects. Project guidance comes somewhat from State, but the group is also trying to influence the State on program scope.

7. BRIDGEPORT MAIN STREET & INTERAGENCY VISITOR CENTER UPDATE: Wendy Sugimura reviewed the outcomes of the Main Street Revitalization Design Fair held at the end of August, the implementation of the new striping plan as part of the pavement overlay project in the Bridgeport Townsite, and recommendations for the surrounding area including walking/biking features on County roads, and an interagency welcome center. Sugimura emphasized that the collaboration between the community, County and Caltrans was key to the success of the striping plan. The Design Fair included a focus group consisting of Bernadette Lovato (BLM), Mike Crawley (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest), Donna Sisson (Yosemite National Park), and the Bodie Foundation. State Parks was invited but could not attend. The agencies were interested in continuing discussions about an interagency center, which could include a visitor's center and agency offices, and the Design Team sketched a possible scenario on the current Buster's Market parcel which was under consideration by the Board of Supervisors at the time. Sugimura indicated the conversation would continue and thought the CPT would be an appropriate future home for the project.

Mike Crawley indicated their plan to move office locations has been shelved at the moment, but he is interested in continuing to discuss an interagency center. The USFS could be involve via retail sales and staffing. Bernadette Lovato suggested reconvening the group to discuss location further. The BLM has a high interest in greater visibility in the area because Bodie Hills is one of the largest contiguous pieces of land the Bishop Field Office manages, and the BLM would like to be able to share the story of this special place. In addition, managing resource issues is challenging when staff has to drive to/from the Bishop office. It was suggested that the MCMWTC and ESIA be invited to the conversation as well.

8. INYO NATIONAL FOREST PLAN UPDATE: Susan Joyce, USFS/Inyo, provided a handout and an overview of the forest planning process and purpose. The process includes three steps: assessment, revision, and monitoring. The assessment will begin this winter, and the anticipated completion date is 2016. This summer, a series of interviews were conducted to explore better collaboration and public engagement through the planning process. A public workshop will be held in the near future, and the results of these interviews will be presented. The plan emphasizes an "all lands" approach, meaning lands outside the forest boundaries are to be considered in the context of the broader landscape. Agencies will be invited to participate as part of this approach. A science synthesis of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem region is currently being compiled to assess the impacts of management on ecosystem health, and will inform the plan. In addition, regional dialogues and a bioregional assessment report, which are not part directly part of the plan revision, are in progress and will also inform the plan.

Bernadette Lovato asked if the science synthesis follows the "all lands" approach. Joyce responded the extent is dictated by the geographic source of the data, which may include lands outside Forest Service boundaries, and is meant to address ecosystem/habitat response to management. Mike Crawley noted he would be interested in receiving revision documents. Carl Benz asked if the science synthesis would be peer reviewed. Joyce responded the intent is to publish it, and so it would be peer reviewed internally and externally. Anyone interested in peer reviewing the report should contact her.

9. INYO NATIONAL FOREST ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS FEASIBILITY STUDIES UPDATE: Deborah Lyons, USFS/Inyo, provided a handout and powerpoint presentation, and an overview of the project initiated in 2008, which includes two feasibility studies of alternate transportation systems: 1) Regional Transportation Planning from SR 120 to Lone Pine, and 2) Whitney Portal Alternative Transportation Systems. She discussed the data and analysis, including visitor use, trail permits, parking, traffic and the built and natural environment, that will be included in the final report, and regional and local opportunities.

Vikki Bauer asked about the idea of a mobility manager, and Lyons responded that concept would be included in the report at a regional level. Gayle Rosander asked why Kearsarge Pass was not included, and Lyons responded a transportation group picked the microsites for data collection and ultimately they ran out of time and capacity to cover the entire area.

10. DIGITAL 395 & LAST-MILE PROVIDER PLAN UPDATE: Nate Greenberg, Mono County, provided an overview of project and a status update. He explained the role of the Eastern Sierra Regional Connect Broadband Consortium, which is to provide outreach and education. A forum is being held in June Lake on Nov. 1. The County's role is to draft policies regarding the implementation of D395, such as last mile providers. Greenberg is currently outreach to communities via the Regional Planning Advisory Committees (RPACs) to discuss options and issues relating to infrastructure, accessibility and service for providing community service.

Bernadette Lovato asked about a plan for coordinating early with agencies if infrastructure is to be sited on public lands. Greenberg noted the planning process is not at that level of detail, but the complexity of the permitting process and need to engage the public agencies is being recognized in discussions. Lovato requested Larry Primosch be kept informed, and to think of the BLM early and often. Scott Burns asked if the County should be providing any information to applicants regarding public lands. Lovato suggested they be reminded the BLM has a process they have to follow, and it may take some time. Jon Regelbrugge noted the same applies for the USFS, and that some policies are different between the two agencies which may cause confusion for applicants. Regelbrugge and Mike Crawley both noted that applicants need to provide justification for why USFS lands were selected.

11. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

A. **US 395 SCENIC BYWAY UPDATE:** Heather deBethizy, Mono County, noted the marketing plan is progressing, stakeholder interviews are being conducted, and a driver survey is being developed. The survey will be distributed through tourism e-mail lists to ensure recipients have driven through the area.

B. **LAND ADJUSTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE:** Bernadette Lovato, BLM, reported on the inaugural Landownership Adjustment Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee defined a purpose, and the dialogue was informative between agencies. Because some of the information is proprietary, reports back to the CPT will be general unless disclosure permission has been received from the landowner, as in the case of Adobe Valley. Wendy Sugimura noted Tony Dublino participated for Mono County Solid Waste, and the County is interested in hearing any ideas about a new location for a transfer station and recycling facility proximate to the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The subcommittee will meet approximately two weeks prior to the regular CPT meetings.

C. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AWARD:** Heather deBethizy, Mono County, reported that Mono County was awarded a technical assistance grant for a conceptual trail between the Mono Basin Visitor Center and Yosemite National Park via Lee Vining Canyon. The County will receive eight weeks of NPS staff time for outreach, with the project starting in January. A project report should be available by next fall.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: 1) Solid waste; 2) Tuolumne River Plan, 3) INF Forest Plan; 3) Mono County Sustainable Communities Policy Project

13. ADJOURN at 12:06 p.m. to next meeting, Thursday, January 31, 2013, at 9 a.m.

Prepared by Wendy Sugimura, acting CPT secretary